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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR  
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

vs.

JAMES ALLAN GIBSON

CRIMINAL ACTION NO.  
1:07-Cr-60-MEF

DIGITALLY FTR RECORDED,  
THEN TAKEN STENOGRAPHICALLY  
AND TRANSCRIBED THEREAFTER

REVOCATION HEARING

\* \* \* \* \*

HEARD BEFORE: The Hon. Susan Russ Walker  
HEARD AT: Montgomery, Alabama  
HEARD ON: February 28, 2008  
APPEARANCES: Matthew Shepherd, Esq.  
Aylia McKee, Esq.

MITCHELL P. REISNER, CM, CRR  
Official U. S. Court Reporter  
Middle District of Alabama  
(334) 265-2500

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MITCHELL P. REISNER, CM, CRR  
Official U. S. Court Reporter  
Middle District of Alabama  
(334) 265-2500

1 WHEREUPON, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HEARD BEFORE THE  
2 HON. SUSAN RUSS WALKER ON FEBRUARY 28, 2008 AT THE UNITED  
STATES COURTHOUSE IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA:

3

4 THE COURT: *United States vs. James Allan Gibson,*  
5 one oh seven C R sixty, and we're here for a bond revocation  
6 hearing.

7 Everybody ready to proceed?

8 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor.

9 MS. McKEE: Yes, Your Honor.

10 I must apologize for my absence.

11 THE COURT: I understood you were in another  
12 proceeding.

13 MS. McKEE: I was.

14 THE COURT: Not much you can do about that.

15 Let's go forward. I'll hear from the Government  
16 first.

17 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government calls  
18 Robert Pitcher.

19 R O B E R T P R I T C H E R,  
20 the witness herein, having first been duly sworn or  
21 affirmed to tell the truth, was examined and testified as  
22 follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. SHEPHERD ROBERT Pitcher:

25 Q. Will you please state your full name.

1 A. Robert A. Pitcher.

2 Q. And where do you work, sir?

3 A. I'm the officer in charge of the U. S. Probation Office  
4 in Dothan, Alabama.

5 Q. And how long have you had that position?

6 A. I had the officer-in-charge position since October two  
7 thousand one. I have been at the Dothan office since  
8 February of nineteen ninety-one.

9 Q. And, Officer Pitcher, did you have any involvement in the  
10 supervision of a James Allan Gibson?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Is that because he was on pretrial release on bond?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Did you participate in conducting a drug test on February  
15 fifth, two thousand eight of Mr. Gibson?

16 A. Yes, sir, I did.

17 Q. Before we talk about Mr. Gibson and that test  
18 specifically, could you please describe the procedures you  
19 follow when giving a urinalysis or drug test.

20 A. Yes. Normally we do what's called an "instant test".  
21 It's a preliminary test. We observe the urinalysis, the  
22 person provides the sample, and we do what's called an  
23 "instant test" to see if it shows positive or negative. It's  
24 a hand-held test.

25 Q. And in collecting that sample, is there any paperwork to

1 fill out to ensure that it is indeed the subject sample?

2 A. If the instant test shows what's called a presumptive  
3 positive test, the possibility of a positive, at that time we  
4 fill a form out and send it out for laboratory testing.

5 Q. Do you interview the person who gives the test as well,  
6 when a presumptive test occurs?

7 A. We discuss it with them. We just inform them that it's  
8 showing a presumptive positive test at that time and that  
9 we're going to have to send it for laboratory analysis at  
10 that time.

11 Q. Now regarding the test of Mr. Gibson on February fifth,  
12 could you please describe when Mr. Gibson came to your  
13 office?

14 A. Yes. He reported in -- I believe he reports normally on  
15 a weekly basis for a test. So he came in. The test was  
16 conducted, and the instant test showed a presumptive positive  
17 for cocaine. The way to see it is a line comes across  
18 showing a positive or negative. A line showed on the  
19 cocaine. So at that time I informed Mr. Gibson it's  
20 necessary to send it off for a laboratory analysis. So I  
21 informed him of that at that time. So then I proceeded with  
22 the paperwork at that time.

23 Q. Now when you administered this test -- Well, excuse me.  
24 When you took the sample, did you observe Mr. Gibson give the  
25 sample?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. And was anybody else present during that time?

3 A. Not during the giving of the sample. It was just Mr.  
4 Gibson and myself.

5 Q. Now when handling the sample, or the container of the  
6 sample, do you take any precautions?

7 A. When we initially get the container it shows -- there's a  
8 little stripe that shows whether it's sealed or not, and I  
9 always just check to make sure the seal is there and it's  
10 tight before I hand it to the individual that we're testing.  
11 And I did that in this case.

12 Q. And do you ever reuse those jars or those bottles?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you wear any type of rubber gloves, or gloves when  
15 handling the sample?

16 A. Yes. We wear latex gloves, yes, sir.

17 Q. And did you wear gloves in this case with Mr. Gibson's  
18 sample?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. When the test came up to be presumptively positive in  
21 this case, what did you do after that?

22 A. I informed Mr. Gibson that it was going to be necessary  
23 to -- for it to be sent to the laboratory for testing. We  
24 discussed that. We had a discussion about that, and then I  
25 proceeded and went -- and proceeded to fill the paperwork out

1 and actually transferred it to the bottle that would be sent  
2 to the lab and sealed the bottle.

3 Q. In the sample that's sent to the lab, is there any type  
4 of number codings or bar coding that's used to distinguish  
5 that as that sample?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And if you could, please, describe what is the method in  
8 which you send this to the lab.

9 A. Well, we do is we take the test in the bottle provided.  
10 We open a plastic kit that's provided by the laboratory and  
11 transfer that sample to that bottle. We screw the top back  
12 on that, and then take the testing form that we fill out that  
13 would have my name, his name and other various information  
14 such as numbers and stuff on that. Fill that out, and then I  
15 remove a bar code from the form and place it over the  
16 container, which would be a matching -- there are matching  
17 numbers on the bar code.

18 Q. Is that what was done in this case with Mr. Gibson's  
19 sample?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, may I approach the  
22 witness?

23 THE COURT: You may.

24 Q. Officer Pitcher, what I did just hand you?

25 A. It's a chain of custody drug analysis federal probation

1 services form.

2 Q. And that is Government's exhibit one for identification I  
3 just handed you.

4 How do you recognize this form?

5 A. It has a specimen number. It has my name on it, and Mr.  
6 Gibson's name on it and our signatures, and the date and a  
7 few other things. A few other various numbers on it.

8 Q. And is this the form that you filled out on February  
9 fifth regarding the defendant, James Gibson?

10 A. It's a copy of the form, yes, sir.

11 Q. And looking at this copy, does this appear to be an  
12 accurate copy of the form that you filled out?

13 A. Yes, sir, it does.

14 Q. And the signatures on the form, are those your signatures  
15 in two places?

16 A. Yes, sir, they are my signature.

17 Q. And there's a place for "offender certification"?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Who signed in that block?

20 A. Mr. Gibson signed the block on the left where it says  
21 "offender defendant's certification". It has his  
22 signature.

23 Q. And did you witness that signature of his?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government moves to



1 admit exhibit one at this time.

2 THE COURT: Any objection?

3 MS. McKEE: No objection.

4 THE COURT: It's admitted.

5 Q. In looking at this form, the block that says "offender  
6 defendant'S certification," what's the purpose of that block  
7 and that signature line?

8 A. The purpose of that is did we seal the bottle and allow  
9 the offender to observe the bottle that is sealed. He can  
10 identify the numbers, and can also identify that we have  
11 sealed the bottle. He can identify the specimen numbers --

12 Q. And --

13 A. -- prior to us sending it out.

14 Q. And when Mr. Gibson signed this form, did he indicate any  
15 objections to the procedures?

16 A. Mr. Gibson was upset and vocal, and Mr. Johns, they were  
17 also discussing it. He was upset it tested positive. Mr.  
18 Johns was trying to explain to him, both of us were trying to  
19 explain to him, why this was necessary for what we were  
20 doing, and he was just really upset.

21 So when I told him, I said, "Mr. Gibson, you have  
22 to sign this," he was pretty emotional, pretty upset. So he  
23 just quickly signed that, and at that time just left the  
24 office.

25 Q. Now at any time did Mr. Gibson request to give another

1 sample?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And did you permit that to happen?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. And why not?

6 A. Well, Mr. Gibson initially mentioned it right after the  
7 presumptive. I told him that normal procedure and policy of  
8 the office was we have to send this test off. The  
9 presumptive positive does not necessarily show a positive.  
10 We need to send this off so we can verify that it's a  
11 positive finding, and I was trying to explain that to him.

12 He was wanting to say, "I want to come back later,  
13 give another sample." And we discussed that and told him  
14 that was not normal procedure, that I had to send this one  
15 off. I told him we were not going to take another sample at  
16 that time.

17 Q. And, Officer Pitcher, the sample that you sent off, was  
18 that the same urine that you saw the defendant provide to you  
19 earlier?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government has no  
22 further questions at this time for this witness.

23 THE COURT: All right. Cross examination?

24 CROSS EXAMINATION

25 BY MS. MCKEE OF ROBERT Pitcher:

1 Q. Mr. Pitcher, you said that it was a policy in the office  
2 that you would send the first sample that you obtained off to  
3 the lab.

4 A. If it shows a presumptive positive we do. If all the  
5 initial tests shows a negative, we do not send it to a lab.  
6 It's considered a negative test. If it shows a presumptive  
7 positive, at that time our policy is that we send it off for  
8 what's called a confirmation test to see if it is actually a  
9 positive and meets the standards.

10 Q. But there was nothing at the time -- You testified that  
11 immediately after informing Mr. Gibson that he had a  
12 presumptive positive test, you said he had requested that  
13 another test be given -- or administered to him at that time,  
14 correct?

15 A. It was a discussion. You know, he brought it up. "I  
16 want to do another test." I told him that, "You provided a  
17 sample, and we need to send this off for a confirmation test.  
18 We don't want to do another test. Now we haven't even fully  
19 tested this sample."

20 And so I was just trying to explain to him that's  
21 our normal policy, normal procedures. And he was upset and  
22 pretty vocal at that time.

23 Q. Would you agree that it was your understanding of his  
24 point in asking for another test, that he wanted to try to  
25 show you all that it was -- or his assertion that it should

1 be negative? Was that your understanding?

2 A. I suppose so. You know, he was very emoted, and I had a  
3 difficult time. I would try to start explaining it to him,  
4 but I don't think he was really listening. He would say, "I  
5 want another test. This can't be." You know, and various  
6 things like that.

7 And that would just be an assumption on my part,  
8 that it would be negative or -- He was just really upset.

9 Q. When you say he was really upset, he didn't curse at all  
10 while he was in the office, did he?

11 A. He didn't curse at me, no.

12 Q. You say he didn't curse at you. Did he curse at anyone  
13 in the office?

14 A. Not that I know of. But, I mean, he didn't direct  
15 anything toward me, and I didn't observe him cursing at  
16 anyone directly in the office that day, no.

17 Q. Did Mr. Gibson -- He never raised his voice when he was  
18 in there?

19 A. Yes, he raised his voice. And he was very emoted, so he  
20 raised his voice and demanding another test. In fact, if you  
21 don't mind me going on, it was actually two instances when we  
22 he gave the test and he came back later. So we're talking  
23 about two different times.

24 Q. And I will get into that, the second time he came back.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. But when you say that he was -- and you described his  
2 behavior as being "really upset," that period of time when  
3 you described him as being "really upset," that is  
4 constrained to the exact period of time when Mr. Gibson was  
5 merely asking, or more or less pleading, for another test.

6 A. After I told him it was a presumptive positive showing  
7 up, he said, "I want another test. I want to come back later  
8 and do another test."

9 And I said, "That's just not our policy."

10 So when we discussed this he said, "No, I haven't  
11 used any cocaine." And that was our discussion. Then I had  
12 to go back and start the paperwork.

13 Q. And he complied with you with regard to the paperwork, as  
14 we've already seen he signed the form?

15 A. He did, yes. When I tried to verify the numbers, he and  
16 Mr. Johns -- Mr. Johns had started -- Like I say, he was very  
17 emotive, very directive, and Mr. Johns was trying also,  
18 because he knows him, was trying to explain why we were doing  
19 this and what our policy was. And they were in a discussion  
20 behind me. And then when I was trying to show him that, he  
21 just basically signed the form and left.

22 Q. But that's all that was required of him with regard do  
23 that form, correct?

24 A. Yeah. I wish he had taken the time to supposedly do a  
25 more careful verification of the numbers. He just signed it

1 and left. And I would have liked to have been able to sit  
2 there and talk to him a little calmly, but he was upset, so  
3 he just left.

4 Q. But before he left, he informed yourself, as well as Mr.  
5 Johns, that he was going to take another test, correct?

6 A. He said something about that. I believe he was talking  
7 to Mr. Johns. I heard him say something about --

8 (Two speaking at once; unintelligible.)

9 -- or something like this. And that was all. He  
10 and I did not discuss that at length.

11 Q. And, Mr. Pitcher, this was the first time you had ever  
12 administered a test to Mr. Gibson, correct?

13 A. I may have administered one earlier. He comes in the  
14 office weekly, so I could have possibly administered one of  
15 the others. It's the first positive test. I believe I  
16 actually administered another one prior to that.

17 Q. You had talked about a time before Mr. Gibson left your  
18 office that day, and he came back to your office?

19 A. Yes, ma'am, he did.

20 Q. And he came back to your office with the results of  
21 another test. Isn't that correct?

22 A. He had called and I answered the phone, and he wanted  
23 another test. And I said, "Mr. Gibson, we're not going to do  
24 another test today. We've got to get these results. I've  
25 got to discuss that with the actual supervising officer, Mr.

1 Ross."

2 And so he wanted to come to the office, and I told  
3 him he could come to the office and he came in. But I never  
4 looked at -- He showed that to Mr. Johns. I never actually  
5 looked at that. Mr. Johns did, but I did not.

6 Q. How do you get into the office in Dothan where you're  
7 located? Not the actual front door from the outside, but if  
8 I am in there in the front room and tried to get back to  
9 where like, for instance, your office is, would I need to be  
10 buzzed back through, or --

11 A. An officer could open the door and buzz you through.

12 Q. But a regular citizen, someone that did not work there,  
13 could not have access?

14 A. No. They could come through the front door, but not  
15 actually into the office complex itself.

16 Q. And you say that he called your office first and told you  
17 that he had the results from another test.

18 A. He did.

19 Q. And you said that you were not going to administer him  
20 another test.

21 A. That's exactly right, yes.

22 Q. But you say you told him to come back to your office  
23 anyway?

24 A. No. He said, "I wanted to come back here."

25 I said, "You can come to the office, but we're not

1 going to do another test." I mean he can come to the office,  
2 but I told him at that time that, you know, I was not going  
3 to take and administer another test today.

4 Q. Well, Mr. Pitcher, help me understand why, if you were  
5 not going to administer another test to Mr. Gibson and you  
6 say that he was already, in your words, "really upset" the  
7 first time, why would you tell him to come back if you  
8 weren't going to give him the test?

9 A. He told me he was very close by and wanted to come by the  
10 office. I didn't have any objections to him coming to the  
11 office. He said he was very close by, a few minutes away or  
12 something along those lines. I don't recall the conversation  
13 exactly. And I said, "You can come to the office." I mean  
14 he was nearby and he acted like he wanted to discuss this.

15 I said, "You can come to the office," but I was  
16 clear that we're not going to administer another test that  
17 day.

18 Q. And Mr. Johns is actually the individual that let Mr.  
19 Gibson into the office that day when he came back?

20 A. Yes. The second time, yes, that would be correct, yes.

21 Q. And when he got into your office that second time that  
22 day, he again asked for another test from you?

23 A. Oh, yes. Yes.

24 Q. And at this point he had in his hand a drug screening  
25 with a negative result that he had just given the same day,



1 correct?

2 A. He showed that to Mr. Johns. I actually did not observe  
3 it. Mr. Johns observed that, so I understand he did. I  
4 don't want to testify that I actually reviewed the thing,  
5 because I did not, but I understand he did.

6 Q. And, again, Mr. Gibson was denied another test?

7 A. Yes. Yes, he was.

8 Q. So you testified earlier that you were going through the  
9 procedures of when you do a drug screen. You said there's a  
10 point where you have the individual like Mr. Gibson give the  
11 specimen in a cup, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you said if there's a presumptive positive, then you  
14 transfer the specimen out of that cup to another cup. I  
15 guess you described it as a "lab kit"?

16 A. Yes, that would be generally accurate. Yes.

17 Q. So what do you do with that first cup that an individual  
18 like Mr. Gibson would have actually put the specimen directly  
19 into? What do you do with that cup?

20 A. The first one, we throw it away. It's thrown away.

21 Q. Would there be any reason to have any of these cups  
22 around the office that are not sealed?

23 A. That would just be sitting around the office and are not  
24 sealed?

25 Q. They could be in a desk drawer, they could be sitting on

1 top of a desk piled on each other. But my question is, would  
2 there be any reason for a cup that's going to be used for  
3 drug screen specimens, is there any reason for that cup to be  
4 unsealed at any pint when it's just in the office?

5 A. No. The officers have sealed cups. The officers are  
6 going in and out of the field at various times, so they carry  
7 cups with them. So there could be cups laying on the desk  
8 that are sealed that they're taking in. There could be a cup  
9 that an officer has used.

10 I'm not exactly sure what your question is, but it  
11 wouldn't be -- They're not normally sitting around the office  
12 all over, no.

13 THE COURT: Let me make sure I understand and maybe  
14 to speed this up. Is the defendant's theory that a used cup  
15 was then again used for him?

16 MS. McKEE: Potentially, yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And so you're challenging the  
18 validity of the test.

19 MS. McKEE: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

21 Q. Mr. Pitcher, how do the cups arrive at the office?

22 A. We usually get -- They come into the Montgomery office.  
23 They come into the Montgomery office, and so we -- the cups  
24 come in like a big bag, and they're usually picked up by one  
25 of our officers, or Mr. Ross might bring it. So they're

1 brought from the Montgomery office to our office in a big  
2 plastic container.

3 Q. If someone stated that a cup that they received for a  
4 specimen was not sealed, what reason would -- would there be  
5 a reason why the cup would not have been sealed when it was  
6 given to an individual?

7 A. Not that -- The normal procedure would be when you take  
8 the cup out of the drawer as I did in this instance, you  
9 check to see if the seal is intact. I always check the top  
10 to make sure it's screwed on. That's what I do. I can't  
11 speak to any other test other than what I do.

12 Q. Well let me ask you, when you say "sealed," are you  
13 speaking of an actual sealant, like some plastic over the  
14 cup, or are you speaking simply of a plastic cup with a screw  
15 top?

16 A. There is a plastic cup that has a paper like seal that  
17 comes across the cup. If I don't have one and it matches,  
18 and you can observe that and see that the seal there has been  
19 broken. I usually -- What I did in this instance --

20 THE COURT: I was going to say, just tell me what  
21 you did in this instance.

22 A. Okay. What I did in this incident is the seal was there.  
23 In addition, I will check to make sure the top is down tight  
24 and check --

25 THE COURT: You're saying you did that this time?

1 THE WITNESS: I did that in this incident. And I  
2 normally do that as a procedure, and I did it in this  
3 incident, yes, ma'am.

4 Q. So you're saying in this particular case when you  
5 originally gave Mr. Gibson his drug screen, you gave him a  
6 cup that you had already apparently outside of his presence  
7 broken the seal on.

8 A. Not outside of his presence. He was standing, you know,  
9 from here to there. He had come down the hallway. I  
10 observed it. I checked it to make sure if the seal and lip  
11 was tight, and then I handed it to him. That's what I did.

12 Q. Were you taking care to make sure that the individual  
13 that's giving the specimen actually sees the seal being  
14 broken, since it is their specimen that's going into the  
15 cup?

16 A. Sometimes I do. In this incident I checked the seal. I  
17 mean, I want to satisfy that I did it. I did not say  
18 anything to him. If you're asking me did I show it to him,  
19 no, ma'am, I do not do that. I mean, I observed it myself.

20 Q. Well if it's not significant to allow an individual to  
21 see the sealed cup before they give the specimen, why is it  
22 significant to allow them to see the numbers, to make sure  
23 the numbers match up on Government's exhibit one?

24 A. Because we're actually placing -- I'm placing the seal  
25 over it at that time and showing them that I have sealed the

1 specimen. So that's the reason we do that. The original cup  
2 has no numbers on it or anything like that.

3 Q. But an average person looking at it would still be able  
4 to tell that it's sealed, or that that seal has been broken.

5 A. Yes, that would be true.

6 MS. McKEE: May I have just a minute?

7 THE COURT: You may.

8 Q. Mr. Pitcher, what is the procedure in your office, or do  
9 you have a procedure in your office, if a test -- if you have  
10 like a false positive?

11 A. I'm not sure what you mean by "false positive".

12 Q. A test that when you test it, it comes back positive, but  
13 somehow it is indicated that either by an error or  
14 malfunction of the test or whatever reason, it's a false  
15 positive; which means, the person is actually clean of  
16 narcotics, does not have any of that type of substance in  
17 their system but the test may say that they do.

18 A. Are you talking about the instant test or the one that's  
19 sent to the laboratory?

20 Q. Either one.

21 A. The presumptive test, the reason we send the presumptive  
22 test is for it to be confirmed. If it confirmed by the lab  
23 and it says it's positive, and I'm not sure what you're  
24 asking, if it's a confirmed positive -- I mean, I don't know  
25 what you're asking. Unless I'm not understanding your

1 question by a "false positive," I don't --

2 Q. Well, let me ask you, has there ever been an instance  
3 where you have had a positive presumptive test that has been  
4 sent off to be confirmed, and when you received the report  
5 back it was not confirmed as positive?

6 A. There has been incidents -- And, you know, I don't take a  
7 lot of tests as -- as my supervision officers, so I can test  
8 generally as a supervisor of the office. I've seen that  
9 happen where it's shown a presumptive positive, it gets sent  
10 off and it appears to be a negative. I know that happens. I  
11 couldn't recall specific cases for you, but I do know it  
12 happens.

13 Q. Okay. What I'm asking you is what is the procedure in  
14 your office once you realize that there has been a false  
15 positive?

16 A. If we send a test off to the laboratory and it shows as a  
17 presumptive positive and then we send it off and it comes  
18 back negative from the lab, it's a negative test.

19 Q. At any point was Mr. Gibson ever allowed to take a drug  
20 test, as he had requested, twice after the presumptive  
21 positive?

22 A. Not to my knowledge. I never did that. Now I can't, you  
23 know -- I can't testify to anything else, but not from me,  
24 no. I can't testify to anything other than myself.

25 Q. And just one last thing. Is it generally that the

1 individuals that come in, where is the specimen actually  
2 given? You said you were there when Mr. Gibson gave his  
3 test.

4 A. We have a restroom at the United States Probation Office.  
5 They enter the restroom, and I enter behind him and observe  
6 the test.

7 Q. So they are already in the restroom and you bring the cup  
8 into the restroom with them?

9 A. I can testify -- You want me to just testify as to what I  
10 did in this case?

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. Mr. Gibson is in the hallway. We were generally talking  
13 when I checked on Mr. Gibson. Mr. Gibson comes there weekly  
14 so he knows what it is, and I followed him. He walks in  
15 there and I followed him in.

16 MS. McKEE: No further questions, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Redirect?

18 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, ma'am.

19 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. SHEPHERD OF ROBERT PITCHER:

21 Q. Officer Pitcher, in this case did you add anything to the  
22 urine sample?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Did anyone else have access to it besides you?

25 A. No.

1 Q. And from the time in which it was -- you sealed it up to  
2 mail it to the lab, how long was it before it actually went  
3 in the mail to the lab?

4 A. I probably mailed it roughly when we closed the office  
5 shortly after Mr. Gibson left. The second time I would say  
6 roughly five-fifteen or five-thirty that day. Somewhere in  
7 that general time frame. It was mailed the same day.

8 Q. Is there anything that you did in this case that was  
9 different from every other urine test that you performed in  
10 your career?

11 A. No, sir. The same procedures.

12 Q. And to your knowledge, have you ever been aware of any  
13 instances where the sealed cups themselves were determined  
14 later to have been contaminated?

15 A. No, sir, not to my knowledge.

16 Q. And finally, you said you didn't actually see the test  
17 result that Mr. Gibson brought to your office later that same  
18 day, that he showed it to Mr. Johns, is that right?

19 A. That's correct. I never actually observed it and looked  
20 at it.

21 Q. Did Mr. Johns explain to you what was on that test  
22 result?

23 A. He did.

24 Q. And what did he tell you?

25 A. He told me that at the bottom it had some diluted sample,



1 or something to that effect. He said apparently the sample  
2 said it was diluted, and we discussed that. But I actually  
3 never saw it.

4 Q. And finally, is there a reason why when a supervising  
5 officer demands you to take a test, that you don't allow him  
6 to take a test?

7 A. Yes. The normal procedure is we obtain a drug test and,  
8 you know, if we allowed offenders to come in and one we would  
9 have to do it for everybody, we control the drug testing,  
10 someone takes a drug test, we take it and we either have a  
11 presumptive and then we send it out for a confirm, we don't  
12 turn around and immediately do a test normally. I don't do  
13 that, and generally in our office we don't generally do that.  
14 It would have to be some reason that I can't even think of  
15 why we would.

16 Q. And finally, who did the test results in this case from  
17 the laboratory come back to?

18 A. They went to Montgomery, Mr. Ross, because he's the  
19 actual supervising officer.

20 MR. SHEPHERD: Nothing further, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. You may step down. Thank  
22 you.

23 MS. McKEE: Your Honor, if I could ask some very  
24 brief questions.

25 THE COURT: Very brief. I want to talk to y'all

1 about time also, but go ahead.

2 RE CROSS EXAMINATION

3 BY MS. MCKEE OF ROBERT PITCHER:

4 Q. Sir, how much of a specimen was Mr. Gibson able to give  
5 you? It was only a very small amount that day, wasn't it?

6 A. I would say it was probably less than maybe a half a  
7 bottle of the normal size bottle. To the best of my memory  
8 -- I'm just going by memory -- I would say it was less than  
9 half the glass.

10 MS. MCKEE: That's all.

11 THE COURT: Okay. You may step down now.

12 (Whereupon the witness, Robert Pitcher, stepped  
13 down from the stand.)

14 THE COURT: Let me just ask the Government, how  
15 many witnesses do you have?

16 MR. SHEPHERD: I have only Mr. Ross left.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And for the defendant?

18 MS. MCKEE: One very, very short witness, and  
19 that's probably it.

20 THE COURT: Okay. There's a need for me to sign a  
21 search warrant after this and that's why I asked the  
22 question.

23 Go ahead and call Mr. Ross.

24 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor. Bernard Ross,  
25 please.

1 B E R N A R D R O S S ,  
2 the witness herein, having first been duly sworn or  
3 affirmed to tell the truth, was examined and testified as  
4 follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. SHEPHERD OF BERNARD ROSS:

7 Q. Would you please state your full name.

8 A. Willie Bernard Ross, Junior.

9 Q. And where are you employed?

10 A. United States Probation Office.

11 Q. How long have you been a probation officer?

12 A. Since March third, nineteen ninety-three.

13 Q. And you supervise defendants on pretrial release?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And are you supervising a James Allan Gibson?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Officer Ross, are you aware of a urine test that Mr.  
18 Gibson took on February fifth, two thousand eight?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And did you receive the results from the laboratory of  
21 the testing done on the sample he gave that day?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And what were the results that the laboratory reported to  
24 you?

25 A. Confirmed positive results for cocaine.

1 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, may I approach the  
2 witness?

3 THE COURT: You may.

4 Q. Officer Ross, I just showed you Government's exhibit two  
5 for identification. What is that?

6 A. That's the laboratory results that is faxed to our  
7 office.

8 Q. And looking at this result. Does this appear to be the  
9 full report that was sent to your office?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government moves to  
12 admit exhibit two at this time.

13 THE COURT: Any objection?

14 MS. McKEE: No objection.

15 THE COURT: It's admitted.

16 Q. Now, Officer Ross, taking a look at Government's exhibit  
17 two, if you look in the middle of the page there's a line  
18 that says "specimen I D". Do you see that line that's below  
19 "results of controlled substance"? It's about three lines  
20 below that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. There's a number beside that. What is that  
23 number?

24 A. Specimen I D number?

25 Q. That's right.

1 A. C zero zero one two six seven three three.

2 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, may I approach again?

3 THE COURT: You may.

4 Q. Officer Ross, I just handed you Government's exhibit one.  
5 What is the specimen number listed on Government's exhibit  
6 one?

7 A. Specimen number C zero zero one two six seven three  
8 three.

9 Q. And is that the same number you just read on the  
10 laboratory results?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. The petition you filed with the Court also indicates a  
13 violation for a failure to follow the instructions of the  
14 probation officer. Is that correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And what were the instructions that you gave Mr. Gibson  
17 regarding drug use?

18 A. To refrain from illegal drug use.

19 Q. And did you give that to him personally?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And what were the instructions regarding associating with  
22 people in criminal activity?

23 A. To refrain from associating with persons engaged in  
24 criminal activity.

25 Q. And you stated in your report that he failed to follow

1 these instructions. Could you please explain that to the  
2 Court.

3 A. Yes, sir. He tested positive for cocaine; he had to  
4 possess the cocaine, so he did not refrain from illegal drug  
5 use there.

6 And refrain from associating with individuals  
7 engaged in criminal activity, Mr. Gibson was on home  
8 incarceration. For him to possess or receive that illegal  
9 drug he would have to be given the drug, unless he was able  
10 to find some at his house.

11 Q. And you stated a minute ago that Mr. Gibson was on home  
12 confinement. What were the conditions of his home  
13 confinement?

14 A. Mr. Gibson was on the home incarceration component of  
15 home confinement; meaning, that he was confined to his  
16 residence. He was not allowed to leave the house for  
17 employment or extracurricular activities.

18 Q. Was he allowed to leave the house at all?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Was he able to gain permission from you to leave the  
21 house?

22 A. Yes, sir. Actually, Mr. Gibson's mother recently passed.  
23 He was given permission by the Court to have visitation with  
24 his mother. But all visitation would have to be cleared  
25 through the Court, considering his level of supervision.

1 Q. Are you aware of whether on February fifth two thousand  
2 eight Mr. Gibson left his house?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And how do you know that?

5 A. Mr. Gibson was wearing a transmitter on his ankle at the  
6 time, and when he left out of range it noted a leave without  
7 permission on that date.

8 Q. And did you discuss that with Mr. Gibson at all?

9 A. I did not discuss that with Mr. Gibson. Mr. Gibson  
10 actually returned to the residence. I forget the exact time,  
11 but it was shortly thereafter. So no, I did not discuss it  
12 with him personally. He did, however, leave a message on my  
13 voice mail saying where he was going.

14 Q. According to the terms of his release, is leaving a  
15 message on the voice mail sufficient for him to leave his  
16 house?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Are you aware of whether any other probation officers  
19 gave him permission to leave his house?

20 A. No, sir, I'm not aware of any.

21 Q. Is there a procedure for contacting you or another  
22 probation officer during either an emergency on non-duty  
23 hours?

24 A. Correct. Mr. Gibson was given information on what to do  
25 in case of life threatening emergencies at the start of his

1 electronic monitoring. It was also reviewed again with him  
2 when he was placed back on electronic monitoring. In case of  
3 a situation like that, Mr. Gibson was explained on what to  
4 do, but the situation would have to be a life threatening  
5 type situation. Someone going to the emergency room, or what  
6 have you.

7 Q. And finally, if he was going to an outside laboratory to  
8 get his urine test, what procedure would he be required to  
9 follow before leaving his house to do that?

10 A. Mr. Gibson would be -- is supposed to contact myself for  
11 permission, and he wouldn't have been given permission had he  
12 talked with me.

13 Q. But did you grant permission in this case prior to him  
14 leaving?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. If he were going to his Probation Office in Dothan and  
17 just made a detour on the way home to a laboratory, would  
18 that be considered by you having done a violation of the  
19 terms of his home detention?

20 A. Yes, sir, it would, because he was instructed to leave  
21 from his residence going to the Dothan office to give a urine  
22 screen and return back to his residence. Mr. Gibson has done  
23 this numerous times, as far as this procedure for the urine  
24 screen, and to my knowledge it had not deviated.

25 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government has no



1 further questions regarding the violations in this case. We  
2 would ask, I guess, that the Court be permitted to hear from  
3 him if you do find him guilty of the violations regarding his  
4 history on supervision, or --

5 THE COURT: From Mr. Ross?

6 MR. SHEPHERD: From Mr. Ross, yes.

7 THE COURT: Well, his history -- Let me just tell  
8 you that I recall his history fairly well, and Mr. Ross can  
9 confirm it. There was a positive drug screen initially when  
10 he was placed on release.

11 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: He was ultimately sent to Fellowship  
13 House in Birmingham for treatment. And Mr. Ross, I guess I  
14 can ask you, is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS: That's correct, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. And this will just shorten  
17 things a little bit.

18 There was a problem at Fellowship House, a  
19 drug test that was refused? Maybe can you describe what  
20 happened then. Refresh my memory.

21 THE WITNESS: Well Mr. Gibson was awakened to give  
22 a urine screen there at the Fellowship House. Mr. Gibson  
23 said that when he awakened he went to use the bathroom, then  
24 went to give the urine screen but was unable to void. He  
25 requested permission to wait until he was capable of giving a

1 urine screen.

2 I think their policy at the Fellowship House was  
3 not to wait. Mr. Gibson was terminated for not submitting a  
4 urine screen at that point.

5 THE COURT: And then he came back before me for a  
6 hearing of this kind?

7 MR. SHEPHERD: That's correct, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And I let him back out on electronic  
9 monitoring after I think expressing the view that I wasn't  
10 persuaded he hadn't used drugs, but given the way the  
11 violation was charged and what the evidence was, I let him  
12 back out on electronic monitoring. And that brought us up to  
13 date, unless you have some other history.

14 MR. SHEPHERD: No, that's the only history I would  
15 have asked Mr. Ross about. But since it's not directly  
16 relevant to the actual violation in this case --

17 THE COURT: Well, it's the context in which I  
18 consider all of this. It is not the violation before me  
19 today.

20 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor. I have no further  
21 questions, no, ma'am.

22 THE COURT: Cross examination?

23 CROSS EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. McKEE OF BERNARD ROSS:

25 Q. I'm sorry, Mr. Ross, I didn't hear your -- one of your

1 last answers. You said you would or you would not, that Mr.  
2 Gibson would or would not have gotten permission if he had  
3 actually gotten into contact with you?

4 A. I would have given him permission.

5 THE COURT: I need to ask something else while you  
6 do that, and then I'll let you follow up.

7 MS. McKEE: Yes.

8 THE COURT: There was testimony previously about a  
9 sample that he got on his own that was said to be diluted.  
10 Do you know anything about that? And what does that mean?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor. The sample that Mr.  
12 Gibson had gone to get subsequent after the urine screen that  
13 he gave at the office on February fifth, I'm not exactly sure  
14 where he went to get the sample, but through the report that  
15 he showed the officer there in Dothan, at the bottom of the  
16 report it showed to be a diluted sample. He did not leave a  
17 copy of the report with the officer, but in later talking  
18 with Attorney Freeman, she stated that the sample was -- the  
19 report was not left with the officer there but it was shown  
20 to be a diluted sample.

21 THE COURT: What does "diluted sample" mean to you?

22 THE WITNESS: In my experience, Your Honor, a  
23 "diluted sample" means that the person has overhydrated  
24 themselves, or has drank a lot of water in an attempt to  
25 dilute the urine that's being tested. In a sample that's

1 being tested by a company, they actually test the urine  
2 inside the sample. Well if there's not a lot of urine but a  
3 lot of water, then it's considered to be diluted.

4 THE COURT: Is that considered a positive test?

5 THE WITNESS: No, Your Honor, it's considered a  
6 diluted test.

7 THE COURT: I thought I heard at one point a  
8 question about a positive test. Let me let you follow up.

9 Q. And with regard to that testing, a test that's diluted,  
10 it still can test -- or give you a result for positive or  
11 negative in the case of drugs that are found within that  
12 diluted sample, correct?

13 A. Well, yes, with an explanation.

14 Q. Okay. Well let me ask you, this the sample that you just  
15 informed the Court about where Ms. Freeman was telling you it  
16 was diluted --

17 A. Yes, ma'am?

18 Q. Did Ms. Freeman also informed you whether or not that  
19 test, this had a positive or negative result?

20 A. No, ma'am.

21 Q. At any point did Mr. Pitcher or Mr. Johns explain to you  
22 with regard to the fact that Mr. Gibson, coming back to the  
23 office and showing them a report that said it was negative,  
24 did either of them inform you of that?

25 A. They did. Well they informed me that the report was a

1 diluted, but I did not ask and they did not say whether or  
2 not the results were negative.

3 Q. So what is the actual -- You say the protocol is that Mr.  
4 Gibson had to get permission with regard to violation number  
5 three.

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Mr. Gibson had to get permission from yourself or another  
8 probation officer, correct?

9 A. Correct. Or if I'm not available, in my particular  
10 status as electronic monitoring officer, I'm in the field a  
11 lot, so if you're not able -- if the offender is not able to  
12 contact myself, then they're able to contact my clerk. Or if  
13 they're not -- if that's unsatisfactory, then they can  
14 contact another officer.

15 What would happen then is that that officer would  
16 -- if needed, that officer would contact me.

17 Q. In a situation where they couldn't reach you but they got  
18 ahold of your clerk, what is your clerk supposed to do in  
19 that situation?

20 A. My clerk would probably call me on my cell phone.

21 Q. Has there ever been -- Well let me ask you, do the people  
22 in your office, are they as clear to the understanding of who  
23 has authority to give individuals like Mr. Gibson permission  
24 to leave home?

25 A. From my experience, the people in my office don't like to

1 get involved with the electronic monitoring personnel. They  
2 will refer everything back to myself, which is why we all  
3 carry cell phones and are able to contact each other.

4 Q. And on this day you had your cell phone?

5 A. This particular day I was actually on leave, so I did  
6 have my cell phone that day.

7 Q. And as I believe you already testified, you received a  
8 voice mail on February fifth of this year from Mr. Gibson  
9 saying that he was going to get another drug test, correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. You were also informed by your secretary that Mr. Gibson  
12 called and permission, basically an okay, was told to Mr.  
13 Gibson when he called and said he was going for a drug  
14 screen.

15 A. No, ma'am.

16 Q. So is it true that is violation number two with regard to  
17 being around an individual with drugs, that that is based  
18 solely on violation number one? Your allegation that Mr.  
19 Gibson tested positive for cocaine in violation number one is  
20 the basis for why you say he was around someone with drugs in  
21 violation number two?

22 A. Partly. And if I may, I'd like to explain that.

23 Q. How else could he have been in contact with someone else  
24 that's not alleged in your report?

25 A. Correct. Mr. Gibson was on home incarceration. So

1 unless someone brought him the drugs, or in his leaving and  
2 going back and forth for scheduled appointments, he made  
3 contact with someone with drugs, then he would have -- that's  
4 how he would have had to get it unless, once again, he found  
5 an old stash or old something around his house.

6 Q. Okay. That I understand. But what I'm asking is if, for  
7 example, in violation number two, are you saying the reason  
8 you know that he was involved with someone with drugs is  
9 because he tested positive?

10 A. That's my opinion.

11 Q. Yes. So would you also agree if the Court finds that the  
12 defendant is not in violation of number one, the fact that he  
13 did test positive and had the substance in his system, you  
14 would agree that violation number two would kind of go  
15 away?

16 A. Yes, ma'am. I'm not the judge, so I wouldn't make that  
17 determination. My opinion is whatever I put on the report.

18 Q. But as far as your basis for violation number two.

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And how much contact did you actually have with Mr.  
21 Gibson?

22 A. Mr. Gibson tried to make contact with him on a monthly  
23 basis. Mr. Gibson was reporting to the office on a weekly  
24 basis, seeing other officers. I'm in the Montgomery office,  
25 so I'm not able to get to all of the counties every day.

1 Q. And Mr. Gibson began his pretrial release in April of two  
2 thousand seven?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. So from April two thousand seven to July two thousand  
5 seven, for four months there were no problems. Mr. Gibson  
6 hadn't tested positive for anything.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And from October two thousand seven when Mr. Gibson got  
9 out of the Fellowship House from October oh seven to February  
10 two thousand eight, was Mr. Gibson continually tested during  
11 that period of time?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And there were no positive tests for that four month  
14 period from October of two thousand seven to February two  
15 thousand eight?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And obviously that time period, again, October two  
18 thousand seven and February of two thousand eight,  
19 encompasses a lot of celebration holidays like Christmas and  
20 New Year's.

21 A. That's correct, and a tragedy.

22 Q. And the passing of his mother.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And, again, he was clean during that entire period of  
25 time?



1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. In fact, he was actually being tested almost twice a week  
3 because he was on the color code system when he came out of  
4 Fellowship House.

5 A. That's correct.

6 MS. McKEE: I don't have any further questions.

7 THE COURT: Redirect?

8 MR. SHEPHERD: No, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you.

10 (Whereupon the witness, Bernard Ross, stepped down  
11 from the stand.)

12 THE COURT: Any other witnesses for the Government?

13 MR. SHEPHERD: Not from the Government, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Any witnesses for the defendant?

15 MS. McKEE: Just briefly, Your Honor, I'd like to  
16 call Mr. Johns.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Come forward.

18 B U D D Y J O H N S,

19 the witness herein, having first been duly sworn or  
20 affirmed to tell the truth, was examined and testified as  
21 follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. McKEE OF BUDDY JOHNS:

24 Q. Mr. Johns, do you recall the date of February fifth, two  
25 thousand eight when Mr. Gibson came into the Dothan office

1 with you and Mr. Pitcher?

2 A. Yes, I remember the day.

3 Q. And prior to that date, do you recall an instance where  
4 you actually stated to Mr. Gibson that the cups used to take  
5 a specimen are reused by the Probation Office?

6 A. No, I never told him that in a serious manner. I don't  
7 recall any conversation.

8 Q. Okay. What I need to know is, did those words come out  
9 of your mouth at any point while Mr. Gibson was on pretrial  
10 release on that day when he came into your office and  
11 specifically asked, "Are the cups reused?" And you told him,  
12 yes, we reuse the cups?

13 A. I don't remember that. I have been asked that before.  
14 If I answered anything close to yes, it was a sarcastic  
15 answer to a stupid question. We do not reuse cups. We  
16 literally have hundreds of bottles in the back we use as  
17 cups. We never reuse cups. Mr. Gibson always took the cup.  
18 Once I handed the cup to any offender and they test it, I  
19 tell them to set it on the back of the toilet. I never touch  
20 the cup again. We do the dip test, they pour the urine in  
21 the toilet, they flush it and they throw the cup in the trash  
22 can.

23 Q. And while that might be what typically happens, you were  
24 not actually present on February fifth, two thousand eight  
25 when Mr. Gibson gave the specimen to Mr. Pitcher?

1 A. I was in the office, I wasn't in the bathroom.

2 Q. That's what I'm asking. You weren't in the restroom with  
3 him, correct?

4 A. No, I wasn't in the bathroom.

5 Q. So you can't really say what procedure was used between  
6 Mr. Pitcher and Mr. Gibson on February fifth, two thousand  
7 eight, other than what generally you would do, correct?

8 A. Well, I don't know that -- I didn't start talking to Mr.  
9 Gibson until after him and Mr. Pitcher were at the end of the  
10 hall and Mr. Pitcher was getting the form out that would send  
11 the sample out for a confirmation.

12 Q. So, again, so you would not know what actually took  
13 place, how the specimen was given on this date, February  
14 fifth, two thousand eight?

15 A. Well I know one thing, it wasn't a recycled cup because  
16 we do not have recycled cups. We only have new cups. Used  
17 cups go in the trash, and the housekeeping service empties  
18 the trash and they're gone. The empties the trash and  
19 they're gone.

20 Q. Let me ask you, you say you don't remember telling Mr.  
21 Gibson before February fifth. Do you remember on that day,  
22 February fifth, Mr. Gibson asking you at that point, Mr.  
23 Johns, "I thought you told me that the Probation Office  
24 reuses the cups." And he stated that in front of Mr.  
25 Pitcher, did he not?

1 A. He did. He stated that and I said if I said that it was  
2 in a joking manner. It certainly wasn't in a serious manner,  
3 because we never recycle cups.

4 Q. Would an individual who doesn't work at the Probation  
5 Office who is not as familiar with the screening process and  
6 all of the procedures and policies, would a regular person  
7 who doesn't work at the Probation Office know that when you  
8 say yes we reuse cups, that that's absurd?

9 A. My opinion? Anybody with a working brain would know that  
10 we don't reuse cups. They don't reuse them at doctors'  
11 offices, and we certainly don't reuse them at the Probation  
12 Office. Mr. Gibson, every cup that he ever used, he  
13 personally put in the trash can. The test that I took from  
14 him, he personally put them in the trash can. Everybody  
15 knows that. Once it has urine in it, I don't touch it any  
16 more.

17 Q. Would you disagree if Mr. Gibson says that on February  
18 fifth, two thousand eight when he was originally handed the  
19 cup, there was no seal on the cup when it was given to him?

20 A. I didn't see the cup. I don't know.

21 MS. McKEE: Nothing further.

22 THE COURT: Anything further for this witness?

23 MR. SHEPHERD: Not from the Government, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you.

25 (Whereupon the witness, Buddy Johns, stepped down

1 from the stand.)

2 THE COURT: Any other witnesses for the defendant?

3 MS. McKEE: Just Johnny Johnson.

4 J O H N N Y J O H N S O N,

5 the witness herein, having first been duly sworn or  
6 affirmed to tell the truth, was examined and testified as  
7 follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. McKEE OF JOHNNY JOHNSON:

10 Q. Mr. Johnson, if you would please state your name for the  
11 Court.

12 A. Johnny Johnson. J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

13 Q. And, Mr. Johnson, you're an investigator with the Federal  
14 Defenders Office, correct?

15 A. I am.

16 Q. And how, if any, have you been involved in the case of  
17 James Gibson?

18 A. I have went and retrieved documents and interviewed  
19 witnesses.

20 Q. Specifically with regard to retrieving any documents in  
21 this case, did you go to a service or a business named Health  
22 Link?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And could you inform the Court what type of business  
25 Health Link is?

1 A. Health Link is a laboratory that does various tests of  
2 body fluids.

3 Q. And when you went to Health Link, was health Link at all  
4 familiar with James Gibson?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And how were you able to understand that they knew Mr.  
7 Gibson?

8 A. Yes. I spoke with a Mr. Scott there who had performed  
9 the test requested by Mr. Gibson.

10 Q. And are you referring to a drug test?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did you get the results of that test?

13 A. I did.

14 MS. McKEE: If I may I approach, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: You may.

16 Q. Mr. Johnson, do you recognize what I'm showing you?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Does it accurately reflect the document that you saw?

19 (Inaudible)

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Mr. Johnson, what is this document --

22 (Inaudible)

23 A. It's the result of a urinalysis performed on Mr. James  
24 Gibson from an official at Health Link.

25 MS. McKEE: Your Honor, at this time the Defense

1 moves to admit defendant's exhibit one.

2 THE COURT: Any objection?

3 MR. SHEPHERD: No objection, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: It's admitted.

5 Q. Mr. Johnson, in obtaining the result of that from Health  
6 Link, were there any results as a positive or a negative with  
7 regard to this drug screening test done on Mr. Gibson done by  
8 Health Link?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what was that result?

11 A. The drug that was tested for in the urine was negative.

12 MS. McKEE: We have no further questions at this  
13 time.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Cross examination?

16 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes, Your Honor.

17 CROSS EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. SHEPHERD OF JOHNNY JOHNSON:

19 Q. Mr. Johnson, Do the results of the test also have the  
20 words for the specimen "appears diluted" on it, correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. You weren't present for any of the testing in this  
23 case?

24 A. No, sir, I was not.

25 Q. And none of the probation officers were present for any

1 of the testing that led to these results, is that correct?

2 A. I don't know the answer to that, sir.

3 Q. Are you aware of anybody who was present or who was  
4 present for this test?

5 A. I wouldn't know. I wasn't there.

6 Q. Or of any of the procedures that were followed during  
7 that test?

8 A. I don't know.

9 MR. SHEPHERD: No further questions, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right. Anything further for this  
11 witness?

12 MS. McKEE: Just briefly.

13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. McKEE OF JOHNNY JOHNSON:

15 Q. Mr. Johnson, are you aware of anything else -- Were you  
16 notified when you went to Health Link that they do anything  
17 other than they are a lab that tests for drugs, like drug  
18 screens?

19 A. Well, I'm assuming that they do other type of tests.  
20 Blood tests for D. N. A. type tests and that of type thing.

21 Q. But this is an official laboratory that does that type  
22 testing with specimens from individuals?

23 A. Oh, yes. Yes.

24 MS. McKEE: We have no further questions.

25 THE COURT: All right. Anything else?



1 MR. SHEPHERD: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. You may step down. Thank  
3 you.

4 (Whereupon the witness, Johnny Johnson, stepped  
5 down from the stand.)

6 THE COURT: Any other witnesses for the defendant?

7 MS. McKEE: No further witnesses.

8 THE COURT: Any rebuttal for the Government?

9 MR. SHEPHERD: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Any argument? You don't have  
11 do, I'm just giving you a chance.

12 MR. SHEPHERD: Your Honor, the Government would  
13 only say that the testing procedures that were described by  
14 the witnesses from the Probation Office, by Officer Pitcher,  
15 were followed in this case according to the procedures of  
16 their office. The sample that was taken, and the sample from  
17 the central lab, the numbers match on the sample paperwork,  
18 and the lab test results was showing a positive test for  
19 cocaine.

20 We believe that is clear and convincing evidence,  
21 and that no evidence to the contrary has been shown to  
22 dispute the procedures that Mr. Pitcher followed in this  
23 case. The test that the defendant has admitted, we have no  
24 evidence as to the procedures that were taken, no evidence as  
25 to the manner in which the test was taken, and no evidence as

1 to anything about this case, other than a lab report that  
2 says "negative", but also says the specimen appears diluted.

3           The purpose of testing by Probation for an  
4 effective testing program by probation officers requires that  
5 they be in charge of the testing, not the defendant. In this  
6 case, we would submit that the test provided by the probation  
7 officers deserve far more credibility than any test submitted  
8 on his own by the defendant, and that Mr. Ross's testimony is  
9 credible, that he did not give permission for the defendant  
10 to leave the premises on February fifth, other than to go to  
11 the Probation Office and that's all.

12           THE COURT: Anything from the defendant?

13           MS. McKEE: In defense, Your Honor, with regard to  
14 violation number two, that is based solely on violation  
15 number one, as Mr. Ross has already stated. That if for some  
16 reason that the Court does find that violation number one the  
17 defendant was not in violation --

18           THE COURT: I understand.

19           MS. McKEE: With regard to violation number three,  
20 the permission, Mr. Ross has stated that if Mr. Gibson had  
21 been lucky enough to get him on the phone rather than his  
22 secretary, then he still would not have given Mr. Gibson  
23 permission to go and take a second test. At that point Mr.  
24 Ross, nor ourselves in this Court, would have been able to  
25 know the procedures of the testing if Mr. Ross gave him

1 permission.

2 I understand Mr. Shepherd is stating that the  
3 probation officers' drug screens should be given more weight,  
4 but there's been testimony from Mr. Gibson's very own  
5 probation officer that has stated he would have given Mr.  
6 Gibson permission to go, which in my opinion would have led  
7 me to believe that he would have considered it, considered  
8 any result that Mr. Gibson would have brought back from a  
9 drug screen. That Mr. Ross would have given him permission  
10 to go and obtain on his own a test to try to show that he was  
11 not actually positive for cocaine or any other substance.

12 Your Honor, we present to the Court in speaking  
13 with Mr. Gibson's -- Mr. Gibson's wife is here. And I  
14 proffer testimony that if she was to testify before the Court  
15 today, she would inform the Court that prior to February  
16 fifth, two thousand eight there are two children in the home.  
17 The children were becoming very ill beginning January  
18 twenty-ninth that required them to seek medical attention for  
19 the next week and-a-half, up to two weeks. This sickness  
20 went through the entire household, including Mr. Gibson,  
21 which at the time caused him to be dehydrated, which, again,  
22 coincides with my question to Mr. Pitcher of how much of a  
23 specimen sample was Mr. Gibson able to give you that day.  
24 And he testified that it was a minimal amount. I believe he  
25 said less than half.

1           To explain at any point the result from Health Link  
2 as being described as "diluted," the Court asked Mr. Ross  
3 what his definition or what that would mean to him, that it's  
4 diluted, and he said that the person had overhydrated  
5 themselves. Well Mr. Gibson, after just giving a specimen  
6 that was less than half of a cup for Mr. Pitcher in Dothan,  
7 he immediately left their office and went to Health Link.  
8 And in the meantime he was drinking Mountain Dew in an  
9 attempt he to give another specimen because he did  
10 immediately, based on the Court's knowledge of the first  
11 mishap, the first test that was done and of a retest that Mr.  
12 Gibson had attempted to do to prove to the Court.

13           But with regard to this case here, Mr. Gibson's  
14 diluted sample is simply that. It still gave a negative  
15 result when it tested for any drugs in the specimen that was  
16 given. It was a negative. It simply was just diluted  
17 because of the amount of liquids that Mr. Gibson was  
18 attempting to retain in his body to give an adequate sample.

19           And, Your Honor, we do have the doctor's excuses  
20 present in court if the Court would like to see those.

21           THE COURT: Thank you.

22           MS. McKEE: Your Honor, at this time, based on the  
23 fact that Mr. Gibson was clean from the points of April two  
24 thousand seven to July two thousand seven, from July --  
25 excuse me from October oh seven to February oh eight, even to

1 the point in dealing with the stresses of Christmas, New  
2 Year's Eve and including the passing of his mother, he  
3 remained clean.

4           The minute Mr. Gibson was told that he possibly had  
5 a positive indication of a substance in his system, right  
6 then he made every attempt possible. He asked for another  
7 test. He called and left a message on Mr. Ross's voice mail.  
8 He also contacted the secretary. He got the results back  
9 from that test and came back to provide them to the Probation  
10 Office. And for this reason we assert to the Court that Mr.  
11 Gibson has not violated in violation number one, two and  
12 three as alleged in the petition.

13           THE COURT: Thank you very much, Counsel.

14           Mr. Gibson, I do find you guilty of violations one  
15 and three as charged, and number two as to the instruction to  
16 refrain from illegal drug use. I do not find you guilty with  
17 regard to associating with individuals engaged in criminal  
18 activity.

19           It's apparent from the testimony you could have so  
20 associated prior to your arrest, and may have had something  
21 left in the house, so I don't think the proof is sufficient  
22 there.

23           But based on the other violations that I found, I  
24 will revoke your pretrial release, and I will remand you to  
25 the custody of the United States marshal.

(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded.)

\* \* \* \* \*

COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter as prepared by me to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties hereto, nor their counsel, and I have no interest in the outcome of said cause.

Dated this 5th day of June 2008.

\s\ Mitchell P. Reisner, CM, CRR  
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